

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 6th state Senate District is ensuring **New Britain, Berlin and Farmington** receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2009–2010:

	Fiscal Year 09-10
Total Education Grants	\$85,697,072
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$734,799
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$2,485,325
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$1,195,443
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$9,282,241
Total State Funds to the 6th District	\$99,394,880

We also preserved all previously authorized bond projects.

BUDGET & SPENDING

Fighting for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than **\$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history**. We did it by cutting costs in every agency and all parts of government.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. We also made the tax code fairer by raising revenues from joint filers making more than \$1 million a year. The budget will help stabilize Connecticut’s economy and help families survive this difficult time.



Protecting Families from Reckless Cuts

Despite efforts by some to make reckless cuts, I stood up for these and other important programs and services:

- ▶ **Pre-school education programs** which better prepare children for grade school.
- ▶ **Higher education scholarships** that help students and their parents afford college. A recession is the worst time to reduce scholarships.
- ▶ **Public libraries**, which add so much to our communities, were spared across-the-board cuts, as some proposed.
- ▶ **Dial-a-Ride services** for thousands of seniors needing access to doctors, shopping and social events.
- ▶ **Department of Motor Vehicles** office in New Britain which serves thousands of area residents.



State Senator  
**Donald DeFronzo**

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I’m proud to  
serve the  
6th Senate District:  
New Britain,  
Berlin & Farmington

Dear Neighbor,

The global recession has hit Connecticut hard. People have lost their jobs and even their homes. At the same time, the state’s budget deficit reached a record high of \$8.5 billion.

Our challenge this legislative session was not simply to balance the budget; we were also trying to save jobs and protect working families and middle-class folks who are struggling to survive the recession.

We did it by passing a fair budget that makes tough cuts, protects funding for education and small businesses, and avoids across-the-board tax increases. I’m also pleased that we passed bills that will help fight breast cancer and autism, expand access to health care and preserve our environment.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Donald DeFronzo  
State Senator

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State Senator  
**Donald J. DeFronzo**  
6th District

Serving New Britain, Berlin & Farmington

# LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

## JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

### Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

This past legislative session we took important steps to help protect small businesses and their workers from the recession.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Additionally, we addressed one of the largest challenges facing small businesses: the cost of health care.

We passed a bill that would have given businesses access to the state health insurance pool, lowering premiums and saving employees and employers money. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed this bill.

### Investing in New Britain with Federal Funds

With Congress' passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Obama administration is making historic investments in our state—including several million dollars in funding for New Britain, Berlin, Farmington and our local agencies.

Under ARRA, New Britain has benefitted from more than \$10 million in fiscal stabilization funds, more than \$3 million in special education grants and more than \$4.4 million in education funding. New Britain's human resource agencies have received \$145,000 for vocational rehabilitation

programs, the Housing Authority has benefitted from \$1,761,628 in federal funds, and the city has received \$429,563 in Justice Assistance grants.

Berlin and Farmington have also received assistance under ARRA, each getting \$646,110 and \$829,315 respectively in special education grants and \$880,159 and \$229,835 respectively in fiscal stabilization funds.

Additionally, Berlin received \$83,647 and Farmington got \$97,633 in energy efficiency and conservation grants.



## WORKING FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

### Comprehensive Health Care Reform

Skyrocketing health care costs are squeezing businesses and families. President Obama has said the status quo is unaffordable—that's why he's fighting for national reform and why we're working hard on health care in Connecticut.

Thanks to the passage of Sustinet, Connecticut is well positioned to be a national leader on health care reform. This bold initiative seeks to overhaul the state's health care system by focusing on improved quality and access to services, addressing coverage for the uninsured and controlling skyrocketing costs. The legislature will receive detailed recommendations in 2011 with the goal of lowering costs and expanding access.



### Fighting Breast Cancer With Early Detection

A key part in the fight against breast cancer is early detection, which is why the General Assembly enacted legislation that focuses on communication of mammographic breast density information to patients. When applicable, all mammography reports given to a patient must include this notice: *"If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination."*



### Minimizing Penalties When Switching Auto Insurance

All too often, consumers deciding to cancel automobile insurance policies before they expire are faced with steep cancellation penalties.

That's why the General Assembly passed legislation this year that will prohibit automobile insurers from charging exorbitant penalties if the insured individual wants to cancel his or her policy before the policy term ends. During these tough economic times, when every penny counts, consumers need the flexibility to act in their own best interests.

### Saving Seniors Health Care Dollars

In 2009, the legislature created the new ConnPACE Plus program, which will result in significant health care savings for seniors. ConnPACE is a state-funded program that pays some of the cost of medications for low and moderate-income seniors. The new voluntary ConnPACE Plus program should help seniors eligible for ConnPACE save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare premiums and lower co-payments. ConnPACE Plus is funded by the State of Connecticut and the federal government and should start within the next year. For more information, please call: 1-800-423-5026 or 860-269-2029, or visit [www.connpace.com/income.htm](http://www.connpace.com/income.htm).



### Health Insurance for Autism

Help is on the way for the thousands of families in Connecticut with children who suffer from autism spectrum disorders. The General Assembly approved groundbreaking legislation that made Connecticut the thirteenth state in the nation to mandate comprehensive health insurance coverage for autism. It requires certain health insurance policies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including behavioral therapy for a child age 15 or younger and certain prescription drugs and psychiatric and psychological services. This will improve treatment for children with autism and provide a substantial savings in medical costs for their families.



### Probate Court Reform to Save Taxpayers Money

An economic crisis provides a good opportunity to make government less costly and more efficient, and there is nowhere in government more ripe for reform than the probate court system. A new law consolidates 117 existing probate court districts into 54 regional courts. The reforms will lead to other professional upgrades, including regular full-time hours that will increase court responsiveness. Customer service will improve for people involved with estate settlement, child custody and guardianship concerns, and adjudication of matters surrounding mental health issues.